The Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) CRESEL project will focus on “developing non-cognitive skills” (absolute priority four) within 15 rural schools (absolute priority five). Through the development of culturally responsive supports to build social and emotional learning (SEL) skills CRESEL will focus on improved academic achievement for minority and high need schools. AASB is a novice applicant, a competitive priority preference priority.

Objective and Outcomes: Objective 1: Establish Capacity and Readiness to Incorporate Culturally Responsive Practices and Practices. Improving climate, family engagement, and connectedness. Objective 2 and 3: School and Afterschool personnel will be supported to effectively implement SEL approaches with fidelity. Increasing levels of SEL supports and readiness to implement SEL; Objective 4: Increase Capacity and Attitudes to Support SEL at the District Level: Improving supports for district SEL infrastructure and greater capacity to support school level SEL

AASB will partner with the American Institute for Research, First Alaskan Institute, and six culturally distinct school districts in Alaska to evaluate the effectiveness of CRESEL as a school improvement strategy to improve academic achievement of 1,800 students in 15 schools.